from: https://drought.utah.gov/

Drought.Utah.Gov

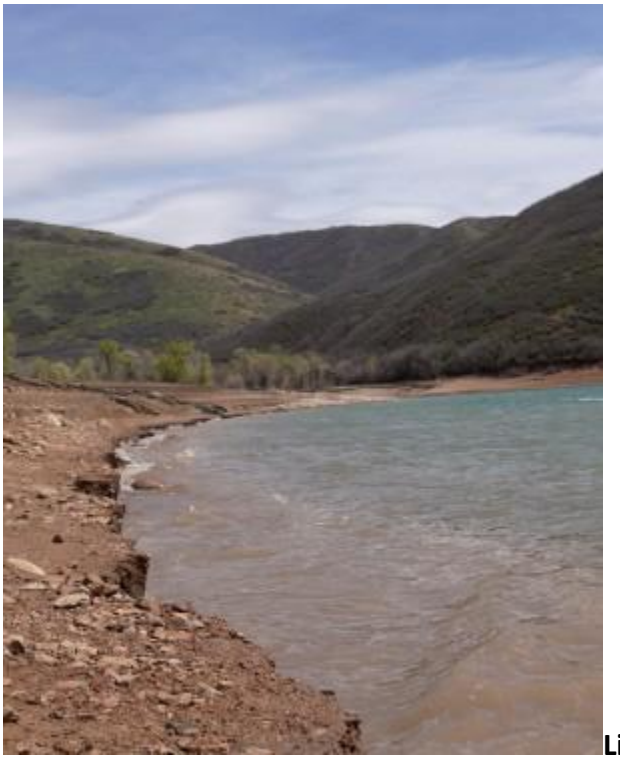
Utah is one of the driest states in the nation

In Utah, we are either in drought or preparing for the next one, so we always need to use our water wisely.

Recent Updates (as of 06/11/26)

- With June temperatures rising, Utah is facing a deepening drought that has accelerated the drying of soils and vegetation across the state. **Wildfire season** has already been active with over 230 fires so far this year, a majority of which were human caused.
- Over the past week, there has been increased fire activity throughout the state with two fires exceeding 1,000 acres. Statewide drought conditions are increasing fire potential with lower fuel moisture levels in the lighter grasses and sagebrush. Lower fuel moisture, coupled with red-flag winds, was the driving factor behind the wildfire activity we saw over the last week. As vegetation continues to dry to critical levels in the summer heat, fire officials are seeing an increase in fire behavior a couple of weeks earlier than usual.
- Areas of the state are beginning to implement **Stage 1** fire restrictions. In Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington counties, fire restrictions took effect June 5.
- Residents are urged to exercise extreme caution with ignition sources and stay informed on local fire safety restrictions as we navigate these heightened conditions.

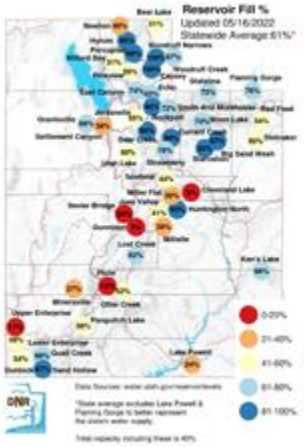
- **Reservoir storage** averages 68% full, which is 7% lower than the normal for this time of year, and 18% lower than this time last year.
- **Water levels** at many **Utah state parks** are experiencing **extreme lows.** When reservoirs reach these levels, some parks are forced to close their boat launch ramps in order to help better protect visitors and their property. Visit the Division of State **Parks boat ramp conditions webpage** for more information.
- Because **Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs**) may be happening earlier than normal, residents are urged to learn how to identify them and find current water advisories at **HABs.utah.gov**
- As noted in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's **June 1 Water Supply Outlook Report for Utah,** Lake Powell remains very low (24% capacity), with the only years when the June 1 value was lower occurring in the mid to late 1960s, when the reservoir was initially being filled.
- In Utah, about 95% of our water supply comes from **snowpack**. Reservoir storage helps us preserve that water for use in dry summer months and drought years. To encourage water conservation among Utahns, the Department of Natural Resources continues to promote initiatives such as the **Agricultural Water Optimization Program** for farmers and **SlowtheFlow.org** for **residents**. These programs aim to educate and incentivize water-saving practices, ensuring Utahns become more drought-resilient and prepare for future conditions. Many indoor water-saving tips are available on the **Slow the Flow** website.
- Check out the Department of Natural Resources' latest article: **Drought in Utah**



Little Dell Reservoir, spring 2026

[See Previous Updates]

Current Conditions



Reservoir Levels

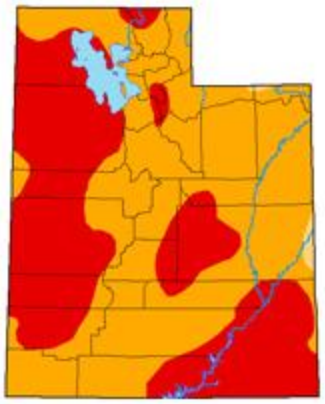
Reservoirs collect and store water for drinking, irrigation for farms and ranches, and provide minimum flows for fish health.

Reservoir Conditions

Snowpack

95% of Utah's water comes from snowpack. The **NRCS Snow Survey Program** provides mountain snowpack data critical for water supply management, conservation planning, drought prediction and more.

Snowpack Conditions



Drought Monitor

The U.S. Drought Monitor is a national drought map that categorizes drought into four categories: moderate, severe, extreme, and exceptional.

[Drought Map]

Water Conditions Monitoring

The Division of Water Resources, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and the Utah Climate Center host a committee to collect weather conditions around the state.

[Committee Page]

Wildfire

In Utah, more than half of the wildfires are human-caused. Please be vigilant and use good Fire Sense to help prevent human-caused wildfires.

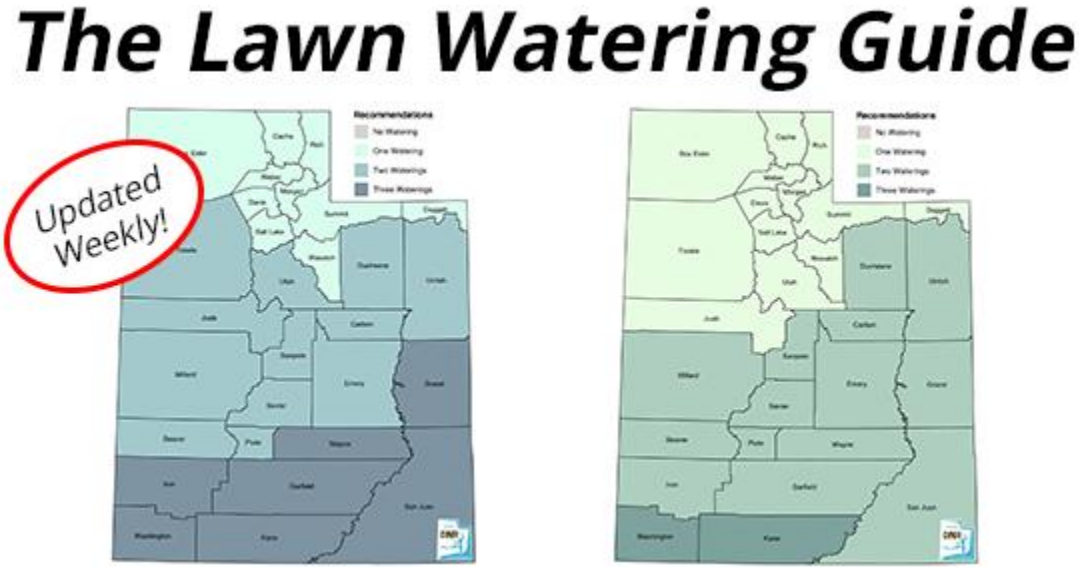
Wildfire Conditions

Great Salt Lake

Extended drought conditions contributed to the decline of lake elevation levels. The Great Salt Lake website centralizes the tools, efforts and organizations that are working to protect and preserve the lake.

[Great Salt Lake Site]

Be Waterwise



Weekly Lawn Watering Guide
This guide uses weather pattern data to customize watering recommendations for each county, for traditional and low-water lawns.

See the Guide

Slow the Flow

Water-saving tips, tools and rebates to help Utahns slow the flow and use this precious resource wisely.

Get Tips

Impacts & Restrictions

Recreational Impacts

Low water levels can impact **recreation**. Know before you go and **avoid boat ramp closures** and other **surprises.**

Algal Blooms

Ramp Conditions

Your Water Supply

Water sources and conditions vary across the state. Restrictions are determined and enforced at the local level, which allows for customization according to the area's water supply conditions.

Water Provider Map

Water Quality

Wildlife & Agriculture Impacts

Drought affects fish, wildlife and agriculture. For example, as water levels drop, water heats up and can be fatal to fish, which may result in changes to fishing limits. Cuts to water use may also impact farmers.

Agricultural Impacts

Wildlife Impacts

Water Rights

Utah follows the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation, meaning water is delivered based on seniority. Prior appropriation provides a clear framework for allocating water during times of scarcity – “first in time, first in right”.

Learn more